

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been canceled to allow prosecution of claims 18-23. No new matter has been added.

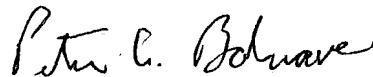
With respect to the prior co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/627,231, Applicant hereby incorporates the claim of priority from Japanese Application 11-227056 filed on August 11, 1999, and claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.

The prior application is assigned of record to NEC Corporation at Reel 010974 and Frame 0880.

Early and favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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